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THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 2

MARCH 2008

SISTER CITIES UNITING TO BENEFIT
PDN PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK | pride |
of the Greater Lehigh Valley

SISTERHOOD

SUNDAY APRIL 6, 2008
DIAMONZ BETHLEHEM, PA
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THE STONEWALL DIAMONZ
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**PDN PHOTO PROJECT
TO BE EXHIBITED IN TWO
BUCKS COUNTY VENUES**
Head more on page 11



Laura Rambo and Jim Fillman help install the PDN Photo Project at Bucks County Community College. It will also be at Unami Quaker Meeting House.
see page 11

SISTERHOOD TO BENEFIT PA DIVERSITY, PRIDE, FACT

the lehigh valley
gay men's chorus

**LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS
TO PERFORM
'BAWDY BITS AND
PERIOD PIECES'
AT STONEWALL,
ON MAR. 7 & 8
READ MORE ON PAGE 3**

**READING PRIDE
CELEBRATION
HOLDS ITS
2ND ANNUAL
DATE AUCTION
AT THE
RED STAR SALOON
ON SAT, MARCH 29.
READ MORE ABOUT IT ON PAGE 4**

**ALLENTOWN
BREW WORKS
MARTINI CLUB
BENEFITS COMMUNITY,
PRESENTS
REGINA SAYLES**

The Allentown Brew Works Martini Club has pledged \$1500 to Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley and FACT. The \$50 club membership brings a \$2 martini discount every Tues., Thurs., and Saturday with special event nights for the GLBT Community including singer Regina Sayles at 8:30pm on March 27. The Brew Works is at 814 W. Hamilton St., Allentown.

ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL REMOVES SEXUAL ORIENTATION FROM NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY, THEN RETURNS IT AFTER COMMUNITY & PDN SPEAK UP

READ ABOUT IT IN LIZ OUT LOUD - PAGE 11

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?



Readers write or email "What's That About?" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



Dear What's That About - I know the Boy Scouts discriminate against gay people, but what I don't get is - how can they do that in places like Allentown and Easton where there are nondiscrimination laws? Signed, Former Eagle

Dear F.E.. Let's review some facts about the Boy Scouts and mission driven organizations:

1. The Boys Scouts of America discriminates based on sexual orientation and religion in membership, hiring and as volunteers. This is a national BSA policy. Local BSA councils cannot waiver from the national BSA policy.

2. It is legal for them to do so. This is because the Boy Scouts insist that it is part of their mission to discriminate against gay people and against atheists and their organization fought all the way to the Supreme Court in the 'James Dale Case' to prove this point. Among other things - they cited a line in their early handbook that said, "A Boy Scout is straight." - Of course it was written decades before straight meant "not gay," but still...

3. Federal Law says that mission driven organizations may discriminate if it is their mission to do so. That means that the NAACP can give scholarships only to Black youth - because it is their mission to support African Americans. Organizations with pro-Latino missions can offer services to Latinos without offering the same services to non-Latinos. The YWCA can give memberships to women only. PA Diversity Network can give preferential treatment to GLBT people because it our mission to promote the health and welfare of GLBT people. And the Supreme Court decided that if the Boy Scouts really insist it is their mission to discriminate against gay people (whom they say are morally bad role models), then they may do so as a mission driven organization.

4. It's important to remember that if you are writing or revising the by-laws and mission statement for a GLBT group, be sure you word the statement to indicate that it is your mission to further the welfare of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community or something like that, and leave out other groups that it is not your mission to support. You may occasionally want to concentrate services to the GLBT community only, and if you do not indicate that in your mission, you may be required by nondiscrimination laws to extend your services to groups you may not choose to support.

5. There is a big difference between a mission supporting disenfranchised minority groups that have been historically discriminated against by helping them first, compared with a mission based in trashing a minority group as the reason you won't support them. After all, the NAACP does not give scholarships to Black youth because they insist that white youths are immoral. The YWCA doesn't exclude men from some programs because they say men are bad. These groups have ethical missions.

6. So that is why, even though it is legal for the Boy Scouts to discriminate against gay people and atheists, it is morally and ethically wrong for them to do so. Just as the mission of the KKK is legal but morally wrong, it is legal but morally wrong for the Boy Scouts to discriminate based on intolerance and prejudice toward a certain group of people.

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THE TOUR

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner



One cold day in January I was looking for something different to do. The New York Times lists walking tours and the literary walking tour of Greenwich Village looked interesting to me. On a brisk Saturday afternoon I showed up at the southeast corner of 12th Street and 5th Avenue. The guide, an older man, gave me a brochure and slowly a group of seven materialized and we walked south on 5th Avenue. There was a lady from Russia, a lady from Germany, a heterosexual couple in their 60s and a guy with a NY Giants coat. The guide mentioned that 300 years ago we would have been standing in a tobacco field. To make the island easier for horse traffic all of the native hills were removed from the island. The dirt was dumped into the Hudson River. Everything west of Hudson Street is really 19th century landfill.

The guide pointed out where Frances Perkins lived and the church where President John Tyler was married. We walked down 10th Street which proved to be a treasure trove of trivia. Emily Post, Mark Twain, Emma Lazarus, Dashell Hammett, Edward Albee and Sinclair Lewis all lived there at one time or other. When the tour guide turned and walked toward the next corner, the man in the Giants coat mentioned that the building across the street was where George and Kramer had the horse episode.

At the corner of 10th and University Place the guide pointed to a building and said "Richard Gere owns the penthouse to this building. When he is in town he stays here." And then he turned the corner. "No he doesn't," said the man in the Giants coat. "He sold the penthouse two years ago and bought a place on 5th Avenue." I continued with the group but the man dropped out, he never turned the corner.

We walked through the Washington Mews. The guide showed us where Eugene O'Neill lived in what had been a converted stable. The author of the Tropic of Cancer had lived here too. The thought of the tropics reminded me of just how cold it was that day. At building number 2, 5th Avenue the guide said Ed Koch, Bella Abzug and Larry Kramer all live or lived here. "Larry Kramer wrote Angels in America," said the man to his wife.

After pointing out the Washington Square homes of Edith Wharton and Henry James' grandmother (now the entrance to an underground parking garage) we continued to MacDougal Street where we were shown the spots of former speakeasies. Now part of NYU, the haunts of Jack London and John Reed, were shown to us. On a side street the guide pointed out the basement apartment of Frank Serpico.

The Russian lady turned to me and asked, "Excuse me, who is Frank Serpico?" "If you like we can get something hot to drink when the tour is over and I can explain everything," I said. "Oh thank you," she said obviously very grateful.

After stopping at a gourmet shop with beans from all over the world, we continued through a section of the Village that used to be very Italian. I was taking notes throughout the tour and now the guide asked me "why are you writing everything down?" "Because I was a history major in college," I said out loud. ("And because I want to double check everything you've said when I get back to my apartment," I said to myself.**) After pointing out the apartment of Monica Lewinsky and where John Wilkes Booth used to stay when he was in town, we ended the tour in front of Marie's Crisis, which was also the home of Thomas Paine.

The Russian lady and I found a coffee shop around the corner and sat down for coffee and raspberry tarts. "You give me knowledge and I can buy coffee. We'll have our own collective at this table," she said and then she laughed. Over coffee I tried to explain who were Angela Davis and Edna Ferber. She confessed she was confused for much of the tour. "Don't you think the guide had an accent that made his talk difficult to follow?" asked Anna. "I don't think it was an accent so much as loose fitting dentures," I said. We finished our desserts and she said she enjoyed our "coda" at the end of the tour.

***Author's and Editor's note: Much of what the guide said was more than questionable.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uuclvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The winter schedule is now in effect.

Game Night: the 4th Monday of the month, at 6:30pm at Conway's BBQ Restaurant in Kuhnsville. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown.

Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown. **GLOSS has an email newsletter** that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month in the winter. If enough interest exists, GLOSS will also meet to bowl during the summer months. Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Ira at: iramfine@aol.com, home phone: 610-767-7363 cell phone: 610-462-4786. Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

GLOSS GAME NIGHT AT LEE GRIBBEN'S

GLOSS will hold a Game Night on Saturday, April 12 at Lee Gribben's, located at 198 Main Street, Emmaus, PA from 6:00 - 10:00PM. Lee Gribben's is a gay owned restaurant which is very supportive of the Lehigh Valley GLBT community, so GLOSS invites you to dine with them, even if you do not play games, and provide your support in return. Please plan to attend and make this a successful event. For those of you who are not familiar with GLOSS game night, people get together and play different board & card games. If you have a favorite game that you like to play please bring it. Feel free to invite your GLBT and allied friends as well.

If you are an avid game player consider joining the email group to get last minute updates. Just send an empty email message to gloss-games-subscribe@yahoo.com.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears meet at the Mooselounge upstairs at the Stonewall 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at around 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moose head. This is a social group. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears>. See a definition of BEARS at the PA Diversity Network website.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS CABARET EVENTS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus has been working hard on a cabaret entitled "Bawdy Bits and Period Pieces." It's part vaudeville, part Laugh-In and all Entertaining. They will be singing: "What Do You Do With a Drunken Sailor?" (I say anything...) "Stouthearted Men" while marching with military precision. "Color Out of Colorado" from When Pigs Fly. Also there will be small groups and solos featuring lumberjacks in tutus, Red necks, a drag queen actually singing and much more! They will be performing "Bawdy Bits and Period Pieces" at Lee Gribben's on Main on February 29th at 8pm and the Stonewall on March 7th at 8pm and March 8th at 7:30pm. The tickets are \$15, call 610-366-3320 to order tickets or get your tickets at the door.

GRANT FOR RAINBOW FLAGS

Community Activist Charles Versaggi has provided a small grant to PA Diversity Network to finance the distribution of rainbow flags to fly in front of homes in the Center City area of Allentown. If you live in this area and would like to fly the rainbow colors in front of your home, contact PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 or info@padiversity.org for more information.

CARSON EVENT

An Evening With Carson Kressley to Benefit Pride's Rainbow Scholarship at MELT, Sat. March 15th 6-9pm. Read more about it at www.prideglv.org.

HAVEN PROM

HAVEN, the Lehigh Valley's youth group for gay, lesbian, transgender, questioning, and allied youth, is hosting its annual Prizm Prom from 7 to 11 PM on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, in Bethlehem. Tickets are \$10 per person. This elegant, discrimination-free alternative to the traditional high school prom is open to all gay, lesbian, transgender, questioning, and allied youth ages 14-20. Teachers and community leaders will chaperone the event, which will feature food, fun, and dancing. Anyone wishing to volunteer assistance or make a donation should contact Pete Pellegrino at havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit HAVEN's web page at www.uuclvpa.org/haven.

LESBIAN COMIC AT IMAGO DEI MCC

Ex-nun and lesbian comedian Kelli Dunham will be performing at Imago Dei MCC in Glen Mills, PA on Friday, March 7 at 8 PM. Tickets are \$10. For directions and more information, go to www.ImagoDeiMCC.org. The MCCLV Fellowship Ministry is planning a trip down to Imago Dei, contact Joleane Ferris for details at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org.

SILENT WITNESS TRAINING AT MCCLV

Thursday March 13th at 7pm at MCCLV, the Helping Hands Ministry will be sponsoring a training session for all congregants interested in being part of the "Silent Witnesses," (the folks with the large rainbow umbrellas who shield festival & parade goers from the anti-gay protesters).

4 GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, please email GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. New people are always welcome!

GLORA events in March include Game Night on March 15th and possibly a trip to Woody's in Philadelphia.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

The Spectrum meeting of March 19th will include a presentation by PDN E.D. Liz Bradbury.

READING PRIDE DANCE

"Suds on Sunday Dance Party" - Featuring music by DJ Evelyn, SUNDAY APRIL 6TH, 1PM - 5PM at the SUBURBAN TAVERN (Perkiomen Avenue and 22nd Street) TICKETS \$25.00. Price Includes: Complimentary Party Keg of Miller Lite, Food, Door Prizes, Cash Bar. Tickets Available at the Red Star or call Lori at 484-955-2948 Proceeds Benefit Reading Pride Celebration.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

GLOSS SKIING

There's recently been a "flurry" of activity on the gloss-ski Yahoo group. For people interested in snow & winter activities like skiing (downhill & cross country), snowboarding, tubing, snowshoeing, etc. and to learn about trips to local ski areas, and various gay ski gatherings around the country/world join in by sending an empty email message to gloss-ski@yahoogroups.com

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown: March 4, April 1, May 6, Picnic-June 22, July 1, Aug 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 Dec. 4 Monroe: April 4, June 6, Aug. 1, October 3, December 5 Reading: March 18, April 15, May 20, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group has formed at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor.

1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

READING PRIDE HOLDS 2ND ANNUAL DATE AUCTION

Looking for that special someone? Then be at the Red Star Saloon on Saturday, March 29, when Reading Pride Celebration holds its 2nd annual date auction, "Dicks, Dykes and Dates". The night will feature the most eligible men and women from Berks County's LGBTQ community, who will offer a special date during a live auction. Date packages will be provided by Reading Pride Celebration, and will include dinners for two, tickets to local attractions, and other delightful dates for couples. Proceeds will benefit Reading Pride Celebration. Meet Miss / Mr. Right, or Right Now. Just don't miss out! To learn more about Reading Pride Celebration, please visit www.readingpridecelebration.com, or www.myspace.com/readingpridecelebration.

READING PRIDE CELEBRATION DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 20 CENTRE PARK, IN READING



SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer

OSCAR TIME

It's Oscar time, yay! With the end of the writer's strike (DOUBLE yay!!) we may now have witty repartee AND Jon Stewart. Didn't get to see a lot hence these few random opines...Would have nominated Denzel for AMERICAN GANGSTER over Johnny Depp in SWEENEY TODD. (No hate mail from the gays, please!) THERE WILL BE BLOOD is one really good, really strange movie...2007 was the year George Clooney stopped being a movie star...AND BECAME A REAL ACTOR!! I love the Clooney. Love him. He actually IS someone I'd like to sit and have a beer with but this year Best Actor goes to Daniel Day Lewis. Like the film around him, Lewis is strange and amazing.

Glad Tommy Lee Jones got nominated but the most powerful moment of IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH belongs to Susan Sarandon. As this grief-stricken mother looks at the charred remains of her murdered son, Sarandon summons the pain and suffering all parents face at the loss of a child AND registers the cost to this nation, for now and future generations, of this terrible war and the continued occupation of Iraq. Those ten seconds the camera is locked on her face affected me more than any cinematic moment last year.

Didn't see AWAY FROM HER but Marilyn said as good as we both thought Marion Cotillard was in LA VIE EN ROSE, Julie Christie was better. Ellen Page is the best story of last year and how could you not love her and JUNO? Sad truth is that any other year Laura Linney is unbeatable for THE SAVAGES, my second favorite film of the year. She, like Kate Winslet, will win an Oscar someday, goddess willing! Many think double-nominated Cate Blanchett will cop the Supporting Actress Oscar over sentimental favorite Ruby Dee (is it really possible she has never been nominated??). But, if I had my druthers, I'd pick Amy Ryan for GONE BABY GONE because she's just so damn good! Javier Bardem wins for NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN. Didn't see it but if those odds don't hold, Vegas owes a lot of dough on this category!

For Best Director I'd choose Paul Thomas (Genius At Work) Anderson for that BLOOD movie. Adapted Screenplay? I got nuthin' cause I saw nuthin' in that bunch. How do I choose between Tony Gilroy and Tamara Jenkins for Best Original Screenplay? Oy! Can't!! Gun to my head, it's Gilroy. MICHAEL CLAYTON was my favorite film and thus my choice for Best Picture of 2007, with THE SAVAGES a close second, alas, not a nominee in that category. Don't forget to nap so you can enjoy it all...and if you're gonna carp that it's too long and blah, blah, blah, go to someone else's Oscar party, will ya? We love every stinking minute of it at mine! (P.S. Academy members...honoray Oscar to Doris Day, hello?!?)

MUHLENBERG PRESENTS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARES LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST

April 24 - 27 in the Baker Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance, Muhlenberg College Tickets www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets or 484.664.3333 Groups: emailboxoffice@muhlenberg.edu

Engage in a battle of the sexes writ with elegance, edge and wit in one of Shakespeare's most dazzling poetic comedies. Reset in the contemporary world of a luxury sea-side resort, powerful men who have foresworn the world's fortunes to devote themselves to the life of the mind are immediately tempted by unexpected visitors - several beautiful and saavy ladies. Amid misdirected letters and mistaken identities, surprise encounters and brilliant conversations - this is a tale of desire, foolishness, and love.

PRIDE OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY ANNOUNCES 2008 OFFICERS

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley announces the Board of Directors and officers for 2008, elected at the Annual Meeting in January. President - Shawn Bausher; VP- Rob Hopkins; Secretary - Carol Chadwick; Treasurer - Joe Schutte. Members at large: Paige Keeter, Jeryl Lynn, Chad Roarabaugh, Amy Smart, and Brad Wentz. Upcoming board meetings will be held on the following dates: Thursday, March 27, April 24 and May 22. The meetings start at 7:00 pm and are open to the public. Meetings are held at 1101 W. Hamilton Street in Allentown.

GLV PRIDE FESTIVAL DATE: AUGUST 17

The Pride in the Park Festival 2008 will be held on Sunday, August 17 from 12pm - 6pm at Cedar Beach in Allentown. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting Shawn Bausher at sbausher@prideglv.org. Vendor information will be available in May.

PRIDE MEMBERSHIP

PRIDE GLV reminds you that it is time to renew your Pride 2008 membership online at www.prideglv.org. Pride GLV

ZANNA DON'T! AT MUHLENBERG

Sweetness, Magic and Light in Zanna, Don't! April 2-6 in the Studio Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance, Muhlenberg College Tickets www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets or 484.664.3333 Groups: emailboxoffice@muhlenberg.edu

Finding the perfect match isn't easy in this campy musical comedy eight high school students tossed between love and acceptance. The musical fairy tale imagines an alternate world where homosexuality is the norm and straight people are considered deviant. The plot focuses on two high school couples: Mike, a chess champ, hooks up with Steve, a football star, even as waitress Roberta connects with mechanical bull rider Kate. Trouble brews in the show's gay universe when high school pals Kate and Steve find they are attracted to each other after sharing a passionate moment in the school musical. With the help of his magic wand, Zanna tends to the hearts and lives of all around him in this story based on a humorous and hopeful message of tolerance. The musical received a 2003 Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Award for its "fair, accurate and inclusive representations" of the gay community and issues that effect their lives.

"Think of the show as a bright hybrid of Bye, Bye Birdie, Grease, with a touch more social satire and heart." Kenneth Jones for PLAYBILL

MCCLV MOVIE SERIES

Meet the last Friday of the month at MCCLV at 7 PM for a Movie Series. The "vision" for this GLBT film series is for fellowship, culture, education and discussion. All are welcome - bring a friend! For more information contact Robby Schotter at christian.education@mcclv.org

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, **AIDS Outreach**-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see **FACT**

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berks's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksbgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theatre, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uucv_cuups@yahoo.com

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net

equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gaydar Magazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN - at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 Info@pdiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St. Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.pdiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLOSS BEARS PDN Photo Project
2	3 SC	4 LV PFLAG LVGMC PDN Photo Project	5 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM PDN Photo Project	6 GLOSS RAA PDN Photo Project	7 Imago Dei Comic	8 WDIY REN GLOSS
9 UCLV GLOSS HMFF MCC	10 RAA	11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN SPECTRUM	13 RAA GLOSS	14 Eunuchos GLOSS	15 GLOSS WDIY
16 GLOSS WDIY	17 RAA SC	18 R PFLAG LVGMC	19 M PFLAG HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	20 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	21 Mom, I'm Gay Civic Theatre	22 GLOSS WDIY
23 GLOSS HMFF	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	27 GLOSS Civic Theatre	28 MCC Movie	29 GLOSS WDIY
30 UCLV	30 GLORA		Merrill Lynch	Touchstone Theatre	Eunuchos	Reading Pride Touchstone Theatre

APRIL 2008

GLOSS Game Night

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LV PFLAG LVGMC	2 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN Muhlenberg Theatre	3 RAA GLOSS Civic Theatre	4	5 GLOSS WDIY BEARS
6 Sisterhood	7 RAA SC	8 LVGMC	9 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS	11 GLOSS Bowling Eunuchos	12 REN GLOSS
13 GLOSS HMFF MCC UCLV	14 RAA	15 R PFLAG LVGMC	16 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	17 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	18	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 GLOSS HMFF UCLV Interweave WDIY	21 RAA SC	22	23 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	24 RAA GLOSS Muhlenberg Theatre	25 MCC Movie	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 WDIY UCLV HMFF GLOSS Muhlenberg Theatre	28 GLOSS Game Night RAA	29 LVGMC	30 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM			

MAY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 WDIY HAVEN PRC BEARS GLOSS
4 GLOSS UCLV	5 RAA SC	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	8 RAA GLOSS	9 GLOSS Eunuchos GLOSS Bowling	10 WDIY REN
11 WDIY GLOSS HMFF MCC	12 RAA	13 LVGMC R PFLAG	14 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	15 GLOSS RAA	16	17 GLOSS WDIY
18 Interweave UCLV MCC	19 SC RAA	20 LVGMC	21 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	22 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	23 Eunuchos MCC Movie	24 WDIY GLOSS
25 GLOSS HMFF MCC	26 GLOSS Game Night RAA	27 LVGMC	28 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	29 RAA GLOSS	30	

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~insptua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA.
 Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearlucas@msn.com

Ren - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG - 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration.org

SC Sanctuary Counseling:GBT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com
Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

T.O. - Theatre Outlet - Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
SANCTUARY COUNSELING-
1ST & 3RD MONDAYS

GLOSS GAME NITE - 4TH MON
LVMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS

LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES

ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES
MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS

LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS

MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
JAN, MAR, JUN, SEPT, DEC ONLY

POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RUC-BALL-THURS & SAT

GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
EUNUCHOS - 2ND & 4TH FRI

MCCLV MOVIES - LAST FRI
LV BEARS - 1ST SAT

GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT

INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS

MAR 1-6 - PHOTO PROJ @ BCCC
MAR 7-17 - PHOTO PROJ @ UNAMI

MAR 7 - TOUCHSTONE
MAR 7-8 - LVMC CABARET

MAR 7 - IMAGO DEI MCC COMIC
MAR 13 - SILENT WITNESS TRAINING

MAR 14-APR 6 - CIVIC THEATRE
MAR 15 - RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

MAR 15 - GLORA GAME NIGHT
MAR 20-22 - PAINTED BRIDE CTR

MAR 26 - MERRILL LYNCH @ POTTSVILLE
MAR 27 - TOUCHSTONE

MAR 27 - MARTINI CLUB
MAR 29 - READING PRIDE AUCTION

MAR 29 - TOUCHSTONE
APR 2-6 - MUHLBERG THEATRE

APR 6 - SISTERHOOD BENEFIT
APR 6 - READING PRIDE DANCE

APR 12 - GLOSS GAMENIGHT
APR 24-27 - MUHLBERG THEATRE

MAY 3 - HAVEN PROM
JUN 22 - PFLAG PICNIC

JUL 20 - READING PRIDE FESTIVAL
AUG 17 - GLV PRIDE FESTIVAL

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
 TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE AT CIVIC THEATRE

Civic Theatre Production of TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE: LIMITED SEATS LEFT!
 Performances are March 14th - April 6th - Call the Civic Box Office at 610-432-8943. For information, or to purchase tickets. Civic Theatre is at 514 N. 19th St. Allentown

"MOM, I'M GAY" AT PAINTED BRIDE

Wilfre' Records & Publishers presents MOM, I'M GAY! - the musical comedy about a mother's pursuit to find a husband for her lesbian daughter. This hilarious musical returns to Philadelphia at the Painted Bride Art Center on March 20 - 22, 2008. For questions regarding ticket sales, call the Painted Bride Art Center at (215) 925-9914. For questions regarding advertising in the program book, call (215) 229-9068.

YAHOO MCCLV DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

A yahoo discussion group focusing on discipleship has been set at MCCLV. The group home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mcclvdiscipleshipgroup> And the group email address: mcclvdiscipleship_group@yahoo.com The focus of this group is the meaning and implementation of Christian discipleship and spirituality within the life of the church. For more information contact Adult Christian Education Ministry Leader Robby Schotter at christian.education@mcclv.org

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

RANDOM REFLECTIONS ON 44 YEARS

On March 27, I will be 29 years old. That is if you don't count the 15 years since the first time I turned 29. I actually don't have a problem with aging. With the exception that every year the aging process brings me closer to the dying process. I'm hoping they'll have a cure for it by the time I get there. And, I'm fairly certain the cigarettes (I like to call them vitamin sticks) aren't adding any years.

You'd think I'd know more at 44. But, I have some questions: Why do I like peaches and grapes but not things flavored like them? Why do I like the song "Push, Push in the Bush" but not President George Bush? Why do I love the Wizard of Oz, but not so much any other Judy Garland musical? Why do I have to collect everything in a series? Ex: for some reason I feel unfulfilled unless I have tracked down every issue of the A&F catalog. I love spirituality but have a difficult time with organized religion. I love Captain Crunch but not Quisp. But I like the Quisp box better. I love football players, but not football. It took a while for my father to understand I didn't want to play football, I wanted to make out with the team. Oh, you get the idea.

Actually, I love everything about life. Just in different degrees. I LOVE chocolate. I LOVE my boyfriend, Gary. I LOVE my cat, Puppy. (I know I listed chocolate first. It's been with me longer than Gary. Let him earn it.) I LOVE our families and friends. I LOVE to hear a good hearty laugh from the soul. I LOVE good music. Doesn't matter the artist or genre. I love a balance of great lyrics, soul touching vocals and speaker filling arrangements. I LOVE bodies of water. For swimming, relaxing, reflecting. I LOVE people who are loving and thoughtful in real life. I LOVE people who are catty and vicious in fiction. I LOVE people who support and help each other achieve their dreams. I love people who are energetic and want to make things happen.

Thanks for sitting through this. A few things I am certain of. The bad eventually helps us see the good. The jerks help us recognize the saints. And a good tight end beats a wide receiver any day of the week. And twice on Sunday. Love ya, Steve

TOUCHSTONE IN MARCH

3/7 -- The Greater Lehigh Valley Writer's Group presents their Writer's Soirée. Local writers share and discuss their work, field questions, and mingle in Touchstone's adjoining café space. At Touchstone Theatre; 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem, 8pm, tickets \$5 at the door 610-867-1689 www.touchstone.org

3/27 -- Public Reading of Giants of the Lehigh Valley (working title). Touchstone Theatre is producing an original play based on the work of the Lehigh Valley Black African Heritage History Project, to be performed May 30 - June 14 at locations in Bethlehem, Easton, and Allentown. The public reading will consist of a reading of the in-progress script by community members and members of Touchstone's ensemble. Playwright Linda Parris-Bailey will be in residence, and will be available to answer questions and hear feedback. This event is free and open to the public.

Time and location TBA. Call 610-867-1689 or go to www.touchstone.org for details.

3/29 - 4/6 -- Tales from the Middle East, Created and performed by the Touchstone Ensemble. In this play for families, Touchstone shares stories and tales from the Middle East, bringing them into a contemporary setting through dynamic storytelling, music, and movement.

SEE FULL PHOTO ALBUMS OF THE FREEDOM TO MARRY EVENTS, MCCS DEDICATION & THE PDN PHOTO PROJECT RECEPTION AT BCCC AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

A FUNNY LITTLE VALENTINE STORY

It is now a little over half way through our son's first year in preschool, and Lucas has just started mentioning someone at school named Mr. Bell. We are not always sure what he is actually trying to say about Mr. Bell, but we can tell he is speaking fondly of him.

Who is this Mr. Bell, anyway? It is not one of his teachers, as he has three very nice ladies for his teachers. Is it some sort of principal or administrative figure? A parent of one of his classmates? As far as we can tell, it is none of those either. So we just continue to ask Lucas and he tells us that Mr. Bell is his friend. Okay, we got it now. It's one of those kinds of friends...the type that no one else can see. All is fine and good. We know kids go through these phases and eventually we will no longer hear about Mr. Bell.

Things begin to quiet down about Mr. Bell, but then Valentine's Day arrives and the kids pass around cards to each other that their parent's help them sign or sign for them. Some cards are homemade on the computer, others are store bought, but all of them are signed. Many of them are illegible....but not the one that Lucas got from Mr. Bell. At least not to him.

"Daddy! This one is from Mr. Bell!" he exclaimed when he came home with his treasure trove of little cards. We ask him who Mr. Bell is once again. Well, this time he enlightens us a little more on his relationship with Mr. Bell. He tell's us that Mr. Bell is his ...uh...girlfriend!

Our curiosity is really peaking now. Is this Mr. Bell some really butch little girl, like Peppermint Patty, who Marcie always called Sir in the Peanuts comics? Is it the naughty little boy that the teachers always refer to as Mr. Bell? For example. "Mr. Bell, please stop running in the hall" or "Mr. Bell, please use your inside voice." Is it possible that Lucas has a little four-year old crush on this other little boy? Should we be excited about this? Maybe we should start putting some money away now for the big gay wedding. It's never to soon to start saving. We have a college fund set up; a big gay wedding fund would be logical. Or crazy. Have we gone totally insane?

We found out the answer to that question the next day at preschool. Dropping Lucas off at preschool, the identity of the elusive Mr. Bell has been revealed, when Lucas turned toward the door, and pointed, saying "Daddy, look, it's Mr. Bell!" and in walked the cutest little four year-old girl. Her name was Isabelle.

DONNIE AND EARL SNYDER LEAD PDN'S RAINBOW FAMILIES GROUP.



READ MORE IN THE
RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION OF
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

EUNUCHOS

Eunucos gathers at MCCLV on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Their foundational mission is to praise God - and they also gather for fellowship and music. For more info, contact Maricel Concepcion at msds2107@verizon.net or call Maricel at 610-798-4730 (after 6 p.m.) This is a GLBTA group, hablamos espanol.



Ask a "Family" Lawyer By Attorney Kate Lynn

Dear Kate, My boyfriend and I are splitting up. Our home is in his name because my credit was so poor. I have nowhere else to live and have no assets other than his checking account. I am not sure what to do, and I want to prevent this from happening to me in the future. Help! -- Homeless and Helpless in Hellertown

Dear HHH, Unlike the Divorce Code (23 Pa.C.S.A. 3301 et. seq.) that married couples look to for guidance when terminating their legal relationships, same gender couples deal with separation issues using contract law if they have executed a domestic partnership agreement. Without such an agreement the ultimate division of property can be extremely unfair. A domestic partner such as HHH may be treated more as a tenant who paid rent rather than a real property owner who has equity in the home. When an asset such as real property is simply titled to domestic partners "X and Y" a tenancy in common will be created. This means both partners own 50% of the property. Without a will, the death of one partner may create an ownership nightmare where the surviving partner now owns the property with the deceased partner's family, especially if the surviving partner's relationship with the family is acrimonious.

Properties titled to spouses create a tenancy by the entireties. Domestic partners may form a joint tenancy when the title document uses the magic words "joint tenants with rights of survivorship." There are federal tax implications when a tenancy in common or a joint tenancy is created, however, so be sure to confer with your lawyer, accountant and investment advisor.

On the other hand, joint tenancy planning by domestic partners may substantially reduce the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax. This is significant because if a same gender couple purchases an asset such as real estate and a partner dies, the survivor is subject to 15% tax on half of the asset's value. Contrast this with a surviving spouse who pays 0%.

A 2002 study claims that nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. Enough time has passed such that we are beginning to see more same gender divorces in Massachusetts, and same gender dissolution of civil unions in Connecticut and Vermont. Be proactive. Protect yourself with a domestic partnership agreement. Title assets properly for maximum protection. Execute proper estate planning documents.

Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. She can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at www.katelynnlaw.com. The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney - client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts and circumstances in order to render a valid legal opinion.

1. Social Science Research on Family Dissolution: What It Shows and How It Might Be of Interest to Family Law Reformers, 4 J.L. Fam. Stud. 5, 5(2002).

VGP WELCOMES NEW COLUMNIST LOCAL ATTORNEY KATE LYNN

MCCLV TRICKY TRAY PLANNING

The "Tricky Tray" is MCCLV's big fundraiser planned for October and all are welcome to help plan another great event! The Planning Team meets the 4th Monday of every month at MCCLV at 7 PM. For more information, contact Maureen Gillmeyer maureen.gillmeyer@mcclv.org

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

THE GOD BOX AND THE NEED FOR WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS

The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church stated that the most recent LGBT teen book by Alex Sanchez, *The God Box*, "evokes the crucifying experience of adolescents wrestling with their sexual identity and their identity as Christians." I ordered the book right after I saw that quote from the back cover. Written primarily for high school students, Sanchez presents a real-life struggle for Christians questioning their sexuality. Sanchez, a Lambda Literary Award winning author, sets the stage with Paul, a Christian high school senior who has been dating his friend Angie for years, when in moves an openly gay Christian high school senior named Manuel. When Paul's friends begin hanging out with Manuel, Paul starts questioning his own sexuality, and eventually his Christian identity. Paul had been struggling with his sexuality for years, but didn't have to support system to be out, until he met Manuel.

Throughout the 248 page book, Sanchez dramatizes the identity crises Paul has, attempting to reconcile his sexuality with his Christianity, and the need for inclusive, welcoming congregations. This book is written for any high school student who is struggling like Paul was to balance faith and sexuality. As Paul soon realizes, there is no conflict, but it took him a while to get there. It is an easy read, and it follows a dramatic and gripping storyline.

In the Lehigh Valley, there are a number of welcoming congregations of a variety of faith traditions, there are also a number of not as welcoming congregations, many of whom likely have high school students about Paul's age who are struggling the same way he was in the book. The challenge that both Paul faced and we face in real life, is how LGBT activists can effectively advertise the welcoming congregations that already exist, and how teens can find them, even if they are not out to their parents.

"The God Box" by Alex Sanchez was published by Simon Schuster in 2007. The ISBN Number is: 1-4169-0899-4.

PDN LIST OF 2008 EVENTS:

Through March 6 -- PDN Photo Project will be at Bucks County Community College North campus.

March 7 to March 17 -- The PA Diversity Network Photo Project - 200 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality will be on Display at Unami Friends Meeting House (Quakers)

March 7 -- Photo Project Reception at Unami

March 19 -- PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury Speaks at Spectrum in Reading.

April 6 -- Sisterhood at Diamondz will benefit PA Diversity Network, Pride GLV and FACT. Don't miss this fabulous event!!!!

June -- PA Diversity Network Community Awards Banquet

June 22 -- PDN will participate in the PFLAG Picnic.

July 20 -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Reading Pride Celebration 2008.

August 17 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival in Cedar Beach Park on Hamilton Street in Allentown.

October 16 -- PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury will do a presentation on Gay History at the Pottsville PFLAG meeting.

October, 2008 -- 5K Breast Cancer Classic, PDN will have a team in this event with a great breakfast at the PDN headquarters.

November, 2008 -- PDN Bingo

November 15, 16, 17 -- 4th Annual PDN Holiday Art Show

December, 2008 -- Rainbow Families Third Annual Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is cosponsored by MCCLV.

**SEE PHOTOS & INFO ON RECENT
BERKS & GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY
GLBT EVENTS AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Kate Lynn, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N. 19th St. Allentown

Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

(UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown

10 Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA, 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre -

11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, **Reading HS GSA**, **Gov Mifflin HS GSA**

Wilson High School GSA, **Berks AIDS Network**

Berks Mens Social Group, **Kutztown Univ GLBT Center**

Reading Area Community College GSA

48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St., Reading

Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road,

Douglasville

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To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to

receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some

restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

10

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☐ Family dues \$20

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Make checks payable to PDN. ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

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TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE!
JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm
2nd flr, Church of the Mediator-1620 Turner St. Allentown,
AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search at no cost to you. Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is \$730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. Make Goodsearch your home page!!!

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

By Liz Bradbury ST. LUKE'S POLICY CHANGES & CHANGES BACK

A St. Luke's Hospital employee, who has asked to remain anonymous, contacted PA Diversity Network in January, because the term sexual orientation had been removed from the list of protected classes in St. Luke's non-discrimination policy.

Some people suggested the term hadn't actually been in the policy at all. Luckily, Trish and I had a copy of St. Luke's former policy on file from some earlier research. It clearly contained 'sexual orientation'.

Unfortunately this employee did not feel safe about questioning this policy change. But, PA Diversity Network works on advocacy issues on a case to case basis, so we got to work on it.

I contacted three local GLBT community leaders who are St. Luke's employees and asked them to see if this was a technical error or GLBT discrimination. Each of these people independently contacted their supervisors about the policy change. One of them, Earl Snyder (PDN boardmember) also got an appointment with two HR VIPs, a few days later. By that time, hospital administrators had not only agreed to return the term sexual orientation to the policy but apologized for removing it. The other two GLBT St. Luke's employees reported they were told this, as well.

Earl told me (as did the others) that the administrators couldn't grasp why GLBT employees might feel threatened about going to their supervisors about this policy change.

I contacted a St. Luke's HR VP and a policies Director. I was also told that sexual orientation would be returned to the policy. I reacted positively but I asked if they would consider adding Gender Identity to their policy. I was told that Gender Identity was in the Allentown employee handbook, but not Bethlehem's. I mentioned this was because of Allentown's law and the lack of non-discrimination law in Bethlehem. The HR VP said the hospital was working on making the policy universal for the whole hospital. I was also told the St. Luke's Patient's Bill of Rights included sexual "preference" (outdated language) and gender identity. I requested and received the text of it, via email. I had specifically asked about the inclusion of Gender Identity in the PBR because a 2003 MCALL article said including it was part of the settlement in Gwen Greenberg's (gender identity) discrimination case. And it was there. Soon after, several St. Luke's employees told me everyone had received a hard copy of the re-issued nondiscrimination policy with sexual orientation back in it.

Then I spoke with the HR person that met with Earl to explain why some GLBT people might worry about anti-GLBT reprisals at St. Luke's. Could I prove any instance of St. Luke's discriminating against GLBT employees?, he asked. The issue is fear, I explained. I pointed out four reasons why GLBT employees may not feel safe or equally treated at St. Luke's. 1. The term sexual orientation was removed from the policy (and not returned until people complained.) 2. Gender Identity is not in the Bethlehem area policy. 3. St. Luke's does not give domestic partner benefits and 4. the Dr. Gwen Greenberg discrimination case was very public. The HR person listened to me carefully and indicated that he would look into what I said, especially the possibility of including gender identity in a hospital-wide policy.

At one point the HR person suggested that "not including DP benefits or gender identity is not discrimination because the law does not require it." We talked it over and since his statement seemed to prove my point, he reconsidered it. The issue is whether GLBT people are protected from discrimination and treated equally at St. Luke's.

As an Allentown Human Relations Commissioner I have reported all this to the AHRC in public meetings and in minutes documents. If you are a St. Luke's employee with further concerns or information, feel free to contact me. 610-432-5449 LBRADBURY @padiversity.org

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan

Marriage = Marriage

"We know in a civil union regime, the burden of inertia favors discrimination. An employer who wants not to discriminate needs to amend itself. An employer that wants to keep on discriminating simply needs to do nothing." — Beth Robinson, a lawyer representing same-sex couples in Vermont

Civil Union is not marriage. From its conceptual beginnings it was evident that the Civil Union was a political hoop to be jumped through on the long journey to marriage equality. Despite the passage of laws in Vermont and New Jersey giving same-sex and straight couples the same legal state protections, the law is being implemented unevenly.

Although couples with civil unions have certainly benefited from the new legal protections, there are still many couples who are not getting health coverage and pension benefits for their partners. While it is morally and ethically wrong, its not illegal. So those (self-insured) companies who want to do the right thing provide the benefits and those who wish to discriminate cite the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) because it is a marriage specific law.

One can argue that the problem of the disparity comes from the lack of Federal equality, but the experience in Massachusetts shows that employers in a state with same-sex marriage equality are unable to hide behind the labels of civil union and domestic partnership as an excuse to not provide equal partner benefits. Employers have to provide equal treatment for married couples or acknowledge by their actions that they choose to discriminate against gay and lesbian couples. But in Civil Union States, self insured employers seeking to discriminate simply cite that CUs aren't marriage - and that they only give married people the benefits.

The New Jersey and Vermont State Legislatures now need to pass a marriage equality law or their respective State Supreme Courts need to evaluate whether or not the implementation of Civil Unions has met the standard of full equality for gay and lesbian couples set by the State Legislature. In New Jersey, Assemblyman Reed Gusciara has indicated he will introduce a marriage equality bill and the governor has indicated that if the bill passes the legislature he will sign it into law. The fact that none of the presidential candidates can even say the words "equal rights" when talking about us, ensures that neither of these remedies is likely to be considered in an election year.

PHOTO PROJECT AT BUCKS COM. COL. AND UNAMI QUAKER MEETING

The PA Diversity Photo Project- 200 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality, is currently on display in the "Cafe" at the North Campus of Bucks County Community College (1 Hillendale Drive - Perkasie, PA). There was a reception, with speakers Jim Fillman, who arranged to have the Project at BCC, Roberta Kreider - Allied Community Activist, and Liz Bradbury, creator of the Photo Project and PDN Executive Director on Feb. 28. (See a Photo Album of that event at the PDN web site at www.padiversity.org.) The display of the now 218 photos is really great at BCCC, so if you haven't seen it lately, here's a chance. It will be at BCCC until March 6th.

The Photo Project will then move to Unami Friends Meeting House (Quakers), 100 5th Street, Pennsburg, PA, where it will be until March 17. There will be a presentation and reception at that venue on March 7th, at 7pm.



POP QUIZ 12

- Hollywood's upcoming "true story" of the Harvey Milk assassination features _____ as Harvey Milk.
A. Johnny Depp B. George Clooney C. Tom Hanks D. Sean Penn
- The soon to be released "Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day,"s title character is: A. Frances McDormand B. Meryl Streep C. Susan Sarandon D. Michelle Pfeiffer
- Lesbian author Patricia Highsmith's main (lesbian) character in her 1951 novel, "The Price of Salt," is named _____. A. Ann Marie Claire B. Hatty Gardner C. Therese Belivet D. Martina Karney
- The main character in "The Color Purple" is _____. A. Shug B. Sofia C. Nettie D. Celie
- What 1982 young adult lesbian novel with the main character Liza Winthrop, was burned on the steps of the Kansas City School Board Building? A. Annie on My Mind B. Rainbow Idea C. I Am Me D. Crazy House
- Clarissa Vaughan is the main lesbian character in Michael Cunningham's _____. A. The Hours B. Boys Don't Cry C. Vantage Point D. Happy Days
- Rubyfruit Jungle's main character is _____. A. Kate Clinton B. Molly Bolt C. Megan Hamm D. Ellen Hala
- _____ is the out lesbian actor who played the smarmy lawyer Joyce Wischniaon the L Word and Allan's shrink on 2 1/2 Men. A. Joanna Lynch B. Jane Lynch C. Margaret Johnson D. Patti Hanify
- k.d., lang's new album is called: A. Wildfire B. Firebolt C. Firewall D. Watershed
- _____ won the best documentary Oscar with a story about the struggle of Detective Lt. Laurel Hester, to get survivor benefits for her partner even as she was dying of lung cancer A. Freehold B. Benefits C. Camden D. Frenchtown

1.D 2.A 3.C 4.D 5.A 6.A 7.B 8.B 9.D 10.A

QUOTE #4

"Just as in Lawrence, the state here wants to use its laws to enforce a public moral code by restricting private intimate conduct," the appeals judges wrote.... "It is about controlling what people do in the privacy of their own homes because the state is morally opposed to a certain type of consensual private intimate conduct." - Texas Court overturning a law prohibiting the sales of sex toys

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

Displacements - Poems by Jean Rubin, Boudica Publishing, Inc., 2008, 138 pages, \$14.95

Loss, transfiguration and a sense of the absurd inform Displacements. Jean Rubin's passionately intelligent poetry juxtaposes an ineffable, metaphysical scale against the small, often poignant details of an everyday world, and examines the paradox implicit in their co-existence with wonder, delight, and a wistful acknowledgment that it is beyond comprehension. An acute observer of city life, the behavior of children, and the steps involved in glazing a ham, Rubin extrapolates cosmic dimensions from triviality and juggles the large and the small with brio. Her voice can adapt from lyrical, to ruminative, to elegiac—but it remains always and brilliantly her own. **Edith Milton** — author of *Tiger in the Attic*

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA
Rainbow Families
Valley Gay Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe-Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
Muhlenberg Theater Association
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Am Hashkalah
The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
United Friends School Quakertown
LV Transsexual Coalition
Lehigh Valley Transmen

Contact VGP to list your organization

AMY SMART AND THE OSBORN/SMART GROUP - MERRILL LYNCH, WILL PRESENT A FREE DINNER ON MARCH 26 AT THE GREYSTONE RESTAURANT STARTING AT 6:30PM. RSVP BY 3/20 TO AMY AT 610-398-4260. THIS ESTATE AND RETIREMENT PLANNING INFORMATIONAL EVENT FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY WILL BENEFIT POTTSVILLE PFLAG.

QUOTE #1

"This link allows people to e-mail their State Senators about the Marriage Protection Amendment: http://eqfed.org/campaign/marriage_protection_amendment_07 - From Equality Advocates on how to fight a new anti-gay Constitutional Amendment

QUOTE #2

"The announcement of the gloss bowling in the Jan/Feb edition of the vgp gets credit for a gay couple who called me to come to the gloss bowling this past Friday Jan 11. I would like to thank you for that, as if it had not been in the VGP, those guys would not have known about the bowling.
-- Part of an email from Ira Fine, GLOSS bowling

QUOTE #3

"Without marriage, instead of security, we have fear. A fear that is always there. The fear that at the moments we are most vulnerable, afraid and alone, our state could step in and take everything away from us -- just because we cannot have a civil marriage."—Out Maryland State Sen. Rich Madaleno, D-Montgomery County, as quoted in the Washington Blade

Distelfink © 3/02 by Ruby Zebu 'Oximoronica'

* A True Story from a January road trip.



"Big Burger on a Kaiser Roll"

"American Fries"

So the Kaiser torpedoed the Lusitania, starts WWI and gets a roll named after him...

But the French insist the Iraq war might not be such a good idea and they lose their fries?

